Listing of Claims

1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule(s) and said linkage contains a peptide bond.

21. (Withdrawn) A medicament according to claim 20 which is cleavable by a protease.

22. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule(s)and said linkage is hydrolysable in an acidic medium.

23. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein said pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of cytostatics, cytokines, immunosuppressants, antirheumatics, antiinflammatories, antibiotics, analgesics, virostatics and anti-fungals.

24. (Previously Presented) A medicament according to Claim 23, wherein the cytostatic pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of anthracyclines, N-nitrosoureas, alkylating agents, purine or pyrimidine antagonists, folic acid antagonists, taxanes, camptothecins, podophyllotoxin derivatives, *Vinca* alkaloids, calicheamicins, maytansinoids and *cis*-configured platinum(II) complexes.

25. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to Claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein the diagnostically active substance contains at least one substance selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, one or a plurality of ligands containing radionuclides, positron emitters, NMR contrast media, and fluorescing compound(s) and contrast media functional in the near IR region.

26. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to Claim ~~18~~ 35, in which the thiol-binding group contains a maleinimide group, a haloacetamide group, a haloacetate group, a pyridyldithio group, a vinylcarbonyl group, an aziridine group, a disulfide group or an acetylene group, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

27. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to Claim ~~18~~ 35 wherein said spacer molecule is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted, branched-chain or straight-chain aliphatic alkyl groups having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups and aliphatic carbon rings having 3 to 12 carbon atoms.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of the carrier-drug conjugate contained in the medicament according to claim ~~18~~ 35, comprising

(i) treating a carrier with a reducing agent so that at least 0.7 mol of cysteine SH groups are present in the carrier per mol of reducible cysteine group; and

(ii) coupling a drug to said cysteine SH groups in said carrier via the thiol-binding group.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28, wherein said reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of dithiothreitol, dithioerythritol or mercaptoethanol.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein said conjugate prepared exhibits a purity higher than 95%.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A medicament according to Claim ~~31~~ 35 for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms in mammals in need thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit comprising a medicament according to Claim ~~18~~ 35.

34. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic kit according to Claim 33 for the detection of diseases selected from the group consisting of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases, and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms.

35. (New) A medicament containing a carrier-drug conjugate and, optionally, a pharmaceutically compatible excipient, characterized in that

(i) the carrier is native or recombinant albumin;

(ii) the drug is a pharmaceutically and/or diagnostically active substance;

(iii) the drug is bound to cysteine-34 of albumin over a spacer molecule and a thiol binding group;

(iv) at least one of the spacer molecule, a linkage between spacer molecule and drug moiety and a linkage between spacer molecule and thiol binding group is cleavable hydrolytically and/or pH-dependently and/or enzymatically; and

(v) at least 0.7 mol of said drug is bound to cysteine-34 per mol of albumin.

36 (New) A medicament according to claim 35 wherein at least one of said spacer molecule and said linkage contains a peptide bond.

37. (New) A medicament according to claim 36 which is cleavable by a protease.

38. (New) A medicament according ot claim 35 wherein at least one of said space molecule and said linkage is hydrolysable in an acidic medium.

39. (New) A medicament according to claim 35 wherein said pharmaceutical is selected from the group consisting of cytostatics, cytokines, immunosuppressants, antirheumatics, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, analgesics, virostatics and antifungals.

40. (New). A medicament according to claim 39 wherein the cytostatic pharmaceutically active substance is selected from the group consisting of

anthracyclines, N-nitrosoureas, alkylating agents, purine or pyrimidiine antagonists, folic acid antagonists, taxanes, camptothecins, podophyllotoxin derivatives, *Vinca* alkaloids, calicheamicins, maytansinoids and *cis*-configured platinum (II) complexes.

41. (New) A medicament according to claim 35 wherein the diagnostically active substance contains at lease one substance selected from the group consisting of radionuclides, one or a plurality of ligands containing radionuclides, positron emitters, NMR contrast media, and fluorescing compound (s) and contrast media functional in the near IR region.

42. (New) A medicament according to claim 35 in which the thiol binding group contains a maleinimide group, a haloacetamide group, a haloacetate group, a pyridyldithio group, a vinylcarbonyl group, an aziridine group, a disulfide group or an acetylene group, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

43. (New) A medicament according to claim 35 wherein said spacer molecule is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstitued branched-chain or straight-chain aliphatic alkyl groups having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, substituted or unsubstituted aryl groups and aliphatic carbon rings having 3 to 12 carbon atoms.

44. (New) A method for the preparation of carrier-drug conjugate contained n the medicament according to claim 35 comprising:
(i) treating a carrier with a reducing agent so that at least 0.7 mol of cysteine SH

groups is present in the carrier per mol of reducible cysteine groups; and

(ii) coupling a drug to said cysteine SH groups in said carrier via the thiol-binding group.

45. (New) A method according to claim 44 wherein said reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of dithiothreitol, dithioerythritol or mercaptoethanol.

46. (New) A method according to claim 44 wherein said conjugate prepared exhibits a purity greater than 95%.

47. (New) A medicant according to claim 35 for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases and diseases that are caused by infections agents, selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms, in mammals in need thereof.

48. (New) A diagnostic kit comprising a medicament according to claim 35.

49. (New) A diagnostic kit according to claim 48 for the detection of diseases selected from the group consisting of cancer, autoimmune disorders, acute or chronically inflammatory diseases, and diseases that are caused by infectious agents selected from the group consisting of viruses and microorganisms.